CNG stations in Tamil Nadu

897. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CNG filling stations which have been established in Tamil Nadu for the use of automobiles and what are the places at which they are functioning;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of retail selling CNG stations; and

(c) if so, the places at which they are likely to be established in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) At present, there are no CNG filling stations in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) CNG will be progressively introduced in polluted cities, including those in Tamil Nadu, with the expansion of the pipeline infrastructure and the increased availability of natural gas, and also subject to economic viability.

Promotion of LPG as auto fuel

898. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cities have been affected due to high vehicular pollution in the country;

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering to encourage use of CNG or LPG as a fuel for controlling the vehicular pollution in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are aware that a large number of vehicles are running on LPG without proper permission in the country; and

(e) if so, what are Government's views and the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Use of CNG and auto LPG is being encouraged to reduce pollution in various cities. Subject to availability of natural gas and necessary infrastructure, CNG is proposed to be